

*Celebrating the Life
of
Dr. E. Alma Flagg*



*Sunrise:
September 16, 1918*

*Sunset:
March 10, 2018*

**Saturday March 17, 2018
10:00 am**

**Elizabeth Avenue Weequahic Presbyterian Church
761 Elizabeth Avenue
Newark, New Jersey**

**CRE Doris C. Peterson, Pastor
Officiating**

Order of Service

Processional

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament

New Testament

Musical Selection *"The Lord is My Shepherd"* (Psalm 23)

Reflections

Acknowledgements

Musical Selection *"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"*

Reading of Obituary Joan Ford Henderson

Eulogy Pastor Doris C. Peterson

Musical Selection

Recessional



Interment

Glendale Cemetery
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Obituary



Dr. E. Alma Flagg was born in City Point, VA, to the late Hannibal Greene Williams and Caroline Moody Williams. She and her family, which included a sister, Thelma, and three brothers, Hannibal, Harold and Samuel, later settled in Newark, NJ. Dr. Flagg is a graduate of Newark's East Side High School where she became a member of the National Honor Society, served as class poet, and was voted most likely to succeed. She continued her education at Newark State College (now Kean University). She earned her master's degree at Montclair State College and her doctorate degree from Columbia University.

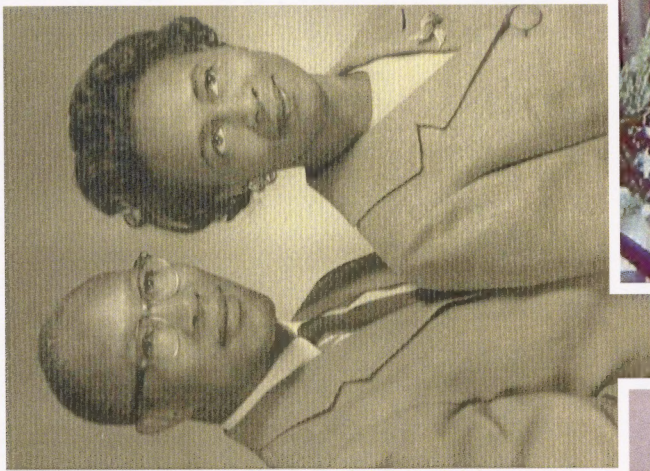
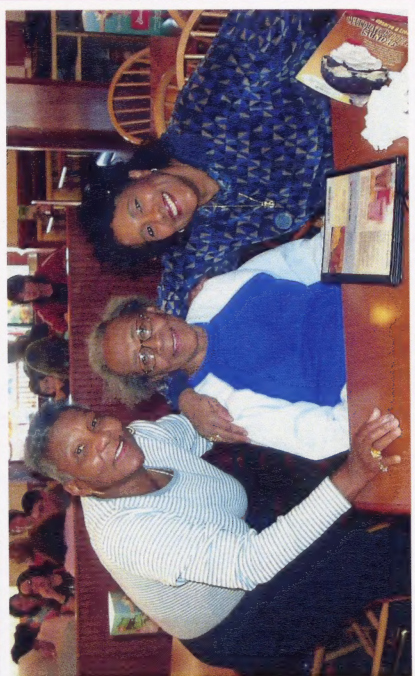
Her full-time teaching career began in Washington, DC. Upon her return to Newark, NJ in 1943, she continued teaching in Newark where she taught in several schools and served as a school administrator. Throughout her career she has been a trailblazer, to wit: In 1963 she was appointed Vice-Principal of Garfield (Elementary) School. Then, in 1964 she was appointed Principal of the integrated Hawkins Street School, becoming the first African-American woman to hold that distinction. Her appointment as Assistant Superintendent in charge of curriculum services in 1967 was also a major milestone. Her attaining these positions opened the doors for a multitude of others who would follow in her footsteps. In 1985, a new elementary school, which is still open and operational today, was dedicated and named after her. The street on which the Dr. E. Alma Flagg School stands will soon bear her name as well.

While pursuing her career and raising a family, Dr. Flagg was active in the community, including Weequahic Presbyterian Church (now Elizabeth Avenue-Weequahic United Presbyterian Church), her sorority, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs, the Newark Choral Society and countless other organizations. Somehow she still found the time to write poetry, including three published books: *Twenty-one Poems*, *Feelings*, *Lines*, *Colors*, and *Twenty More with Thought and Feeling*.

Twice Basileus (chapter president) of the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Dr. Flagg worked hard to embody the tenets of sisterhood in all facets of her life. Alpha Kappa Alpha was an important part of her life, and she was a leader, mentor and role model. Beta Alpha Omega chapter will surely miss the Soror they designated as their "Hidden Figure" and whom they will soon be honoring as a Diamond Soror.

Never one to be idle, Dr. Flagg remained active in retirement, working with church and sorority organizations as well as The New Jersey Historical Society, NJPAC, the Newark Public Library, the Newark Museum, NJ Preservation and Landmarks Committee, and established the E. Alma Flagg Scholarship to assist deserving Newark high school graduates in furthering their education.

Preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, Dr. J. Thomas, Flagg, Jr., her son, Dr. Thomas Lyle Flagg, her parents, Caroline and Hannibal Williams, niece Katunge Mimy, and nephews Robert A. Stephens and Samuel Williams (as well as many other relatives), she is survived by her daughter, Lu Flagg Foley, her grandchildren Nadirah Farah Foley, Challés Iozilé Foley, and Rashad Fareed Foley; nieces Kathleen Wilson and Eileen Ennin Frimpong; grandnieces Kamu Jolizé Mimy and Gwyndel Waters, and grandnephew Foluso Mimy, as well as special friends Joan and Timmie Henderson, and her goddaughter, Dr. Kimberly Henderson.



Reflection

I'd like say a word of appreciation about Dr. E. Alma Flagg, who was a lifelong friend of my mother's. I'm not entirely sure how they met, but when they did, my mother didn't have a college degree; her parents hadn't thought it necessary for a girl and had sent her to secretarial school instead. As I understand it, Dr. Flagg urged her to continue her education, and when I started kindergarten at Maple, Mom went back to night school at Rutgers Newark to study for a degree in English. I took a day off from Mrs. Cohen's class in the third grade to watch her graduate, and it was Dr. Flagg who helped her get a job teaching at Chancellor Avenue School afterward. Mom died a little over a year ago at the age of 98; Dr. Flagg was just a few months shy of 100. Apart from all of her many achievements, she was a great friend to our family. May this remarkable woman rest in peace.

- *Scott Seligman*

Weequahic '65, Princeton '69



Dr. Flagg and June Seligman,
taken in March, 1993

Unfortunately, time does not permit everyone who would offer a reflection on Dr. Flagg to do so here today. Please feel free to send your reflection to Lu Foley's email, senorafoley@gmail.com. All the reflections will be compiled and uploaded to the cloud, and the link will be sent to your email address.

- *Lu Flagg Foley*

On To The Next Phase

Mary J sang "no more pain."
Baby shampoo said "no more tears."
Time to celebrate!
Time to rejoice!

Of course we will miss her.
We loved her wit and passion and ramrod strength.
We loved her dedication, her high standards, and her boundless giving.
We loved her for the countless lives she touched - family, friends, colleagues, students,
Sorors, women she mentored into teaching careers, neighbors, church friends,
civic organization associates, right down to the ladies
she shared a table with for meals at Cadbury.

She gave more than any one of us will ever know,
to more people than any one of us could ever know.

She was tough. She was harsh. She was demanding.
Because she was unfailing in her purpose. She was a woman on a mission.

Never content to be idle, impatient when she felt she was no longer useful,
unaware of a new purpose for her life, new lessons she taught.

Of course we will not forget her. We were privileged to know her,
to love her, to be known and loved by her.

Now is not a time to cry; rather, it is a time to celebrate and rejoice.

She is free! Free of pain, of encroaching dementia, of the wheelchair,
of missing so many with whom she is now reunited.

Be glad for her, and rejoice!

It is left to us to pick up the mantle and continue her mission of excellence.

- *Luisa F. ("Lu") Foley*

March 11, 2018

Request

The family requests that anyone wishing to honor
Dr. Flagg's memory do so via a donation
to the endowed Dr. E. Alma Flagg scholarship
at Kean University in lieu of flowers or fruit.

Kean University Foundation
1000 Morris Ave., Townsend Hall 127
Union, NJ 07083
908-737-3340



Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge, with deep appreciation,
the many kind acts and comforting expressions of sympathy
extended to us during our time of bereavement.
May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and concern.

The James E.
Churchman, Jr.
Funeral Home

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